

532899

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
27 May 2004 (27.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2004/043741 A2

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: B60R

(US). HUNGERINK, Gerald, W. [US/US]; 4682 Beech Street, Holland, MI 49423-8924 (US). HOEK, Steven, L. [US/US]; 2270 Sunset Bluff Drive, Holland, MI 49424 (US). HOWE, Jason, D., C. [US/US]; 768 North Meadow Drive, Holland, MI 49423 (US). GINOCCHIO, Michael, H. [US/US]; 17282 Timber Dunes Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (US).

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2003/035409

(22) International Filing Date:  
7 November 2003 (07.11.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(74) Agent: KAPTEYN, Jeffrey, S.; Price, Heneveld, Cooper, DeWitt & Litton, 695 Kenmoor, S.E., P.O. Box 2567, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-2567 (US).

(30) Priority Data:  
60/424,750 8 November 2002 (08.11.2002) US

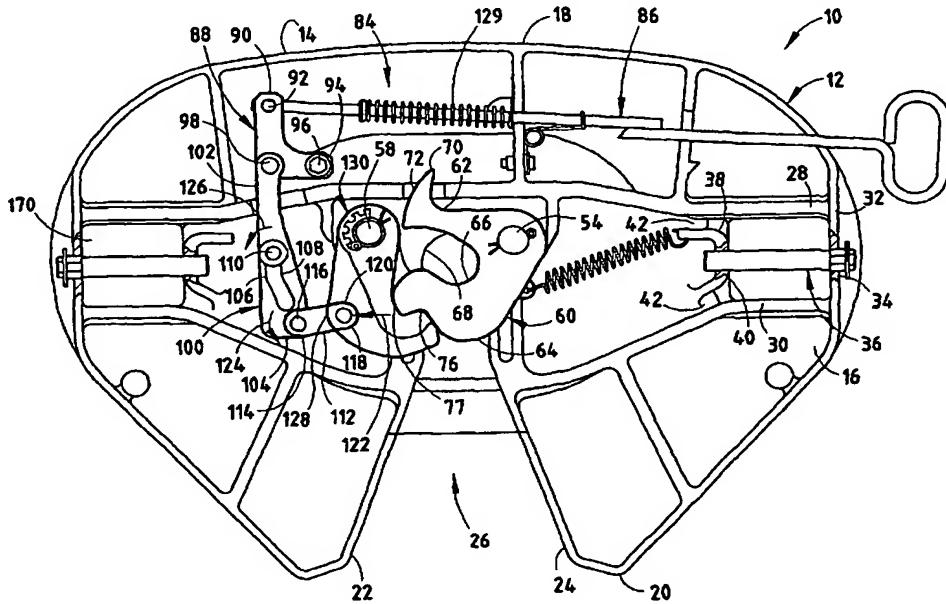
(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): THE HOLLAND GROUP, INC. [US/US]; 467 Ottawa Avenue, Post Office Box 2099, Holland, MI 49422-2099 (US).

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: LIGHTWEIGHT FIFTH WHEEL HITCH ASSEMBLY



(57) Abstract: A fifth wheel hitch assembly includes a hitch plate having a rearward end that defines a throat for receiving a kingpin. First and second structural support ribs extend downwardly from a bottom surface of the hitch plate. A pair of ears extend longitudinally between the first and second support ribs. Each ear includes an aperture adapted to receive a pivot pin to pivotably support the top hitch plate on a supporting structure. Each ear is substantially offset from at least a selected one of the first support rib and the second support rib.

WO 2004/043741 A2



European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**Published:**

- *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*